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號十二月二十年七十九百八千一英

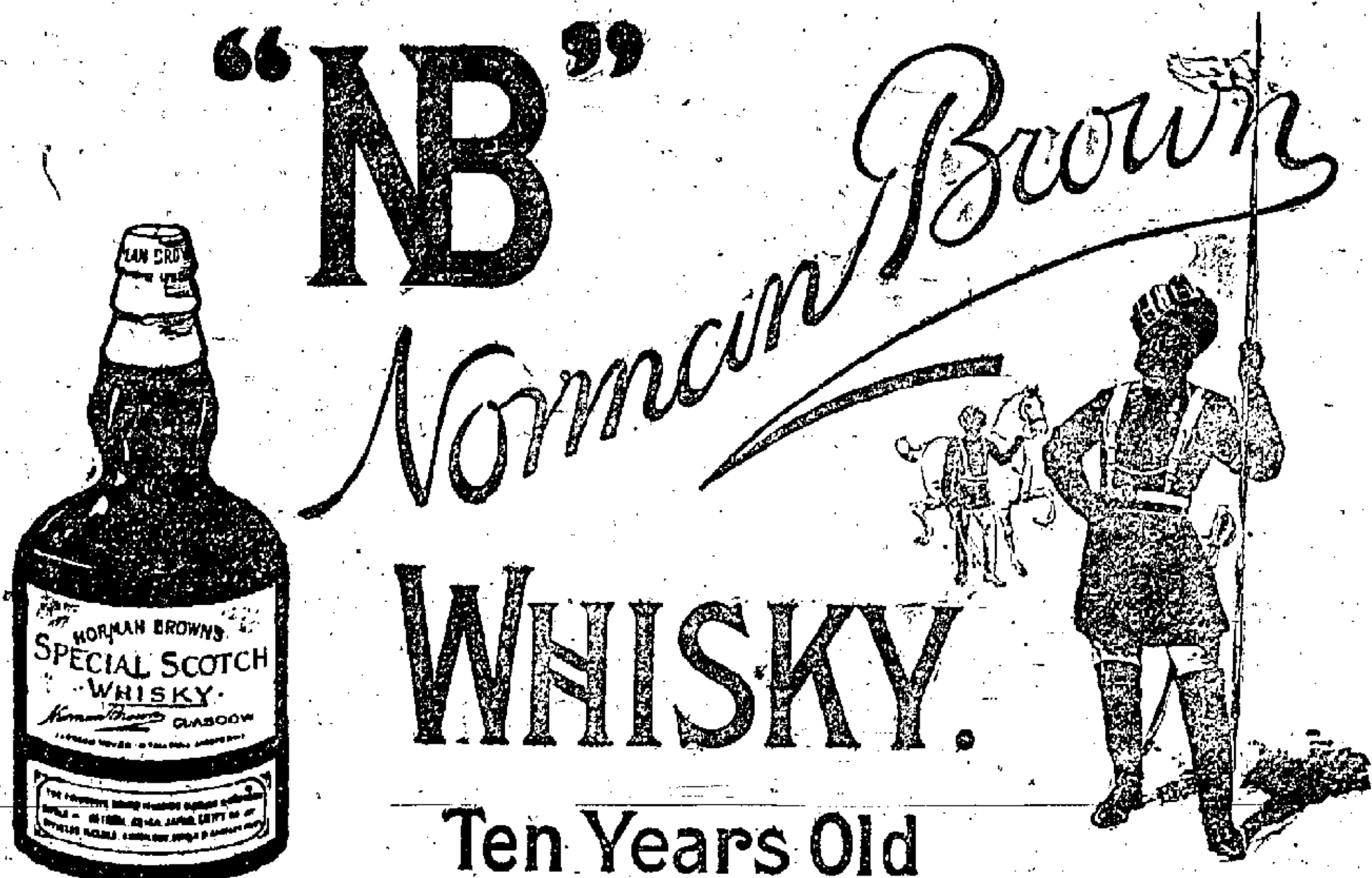
HONGKONG, MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1897.

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W. ROBINSON & Co.
Hongkong, December 17, 1897. 2473
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that, in ac-
cordance with the Special Resolution
passed on the 11th December, 1895,
and confirmed on the 28th December, 1895,
and in consequence of the death of JOHN
DAVID HUMPHREYS, on the 8th instant, the
FIRM OF JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & CO.
has become the General Managers of the
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By Order,
A. H. MANCILL,
Secretary.

Hongkong, November 23, 1897. 2440

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Comp. design.

Interst. Novelties in expensive DIAM. CHAINS,
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Unparalleled Precious Stones of every
description, selected and set to order.

CHRONOMETERS, CHRONOMETERS, Reparat-
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Prices Moderate.

LEVY HERMANOS.

Hongkong, December 14, 1897. 2438

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TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!!

ROCKING HORSES, DOLLS, TOPS, STEAM ENGINES, YACHTS,
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PARRITCH FOR MUSCLE, WHISKY FOR PLUCK!

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FIRE-CLAY WORKS, DEEP WATER BAY, HONGKONG.

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GLAZED STONEWARE DRAIN PIPES AND FITTINGS, GLAZED PAVING
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Telegrams by the Australian mail will be found on the fifth page.

The Russian flag-ship, two cruisers, and two gunboats arrived at Chemulpo from Vladivostok on the 28th Nov.

It is notified in the Gazette that the Orange Free State will join the Universal Postal Union on the 1st January next.

Approved rules for the government of licensed boarding houses for Chinese seamen are published in the Government Gazette.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 21, and for the Chinese 23.3.

At the Straits Asiatic, two Chinamen were convicted of murder on the 10th inst. They were sentenced to death by Mr Justice Leach.

It has been decided by the Straits Government that clearly habitual criminals shall be banished from the Straits as their sentences expire.

The maximum temperature last month was 85.6, on the 4th, and the minimum 51.1, on the 26th, the mean for the month being 69.8. The rainfall was 7.32 inches.

At the match between Stoddart's XI and Victoria at Melbourne, a sum of £222 was paid as entrance money. And yet Australia is said to be in financial difficulties!

HEINRICH DARON von Siebold, Secretary of Legation, has been appointed Consul for Austria-Hungary at Singapore. Mr D. Brandt, the retiring Honorary Consul, has been decorated by Emperor Joseph.

H. E. THE Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Amendment Ordinance and the Ordinance to facilitate the Recovery of Possession of Tenements and Premises of small value.

THE N. Y. K. steamer Yamashiro Maru, which arrived from Australia on Sunday, brought a large quantity of treasure—£2000 to Messrs Yee Sui, £1500 to Hok Wai Chun and Co., £1500 to Bo Sing Chong and Co., £450 to Wing Chong Toy and Co., £550 to Sun Kwong Hop, and £560 to On Hing.

The final for the Warren Football Shield was played at Singapore on the 9th inst., the teams being A. Co., Rifle Brigade, and Royal Artillery, 25th Co., S.D. At the call of time, both sides had scored a goal. An extra quarter was played without result, and the game ended in a draw.

THE Chinese Mail reports that on the afternoon of the 17th inst., a portion of the Government gunpowder factory at Canton was destroyed by an explosion. There were upwards of twenty persons in the factory at the time, and one or two were killed outright and the remainder seriously injured. It is stated that the disaster was due to the gross carelessness of a workman.

The special qualities of cement are being recognized in the North, and Messrs Barretto and Co., the agents for China and Japan, have received a very large order from Shanghai. The order is for three thousand barrels of cement. Five hundred barrels have been shipped by the Kowloon, and a similar amount by the Peking, on Saturday, and the remaining two thousand barrels will follow.

LEUT. COL. William Harold Chippendale, at present Professor of Fortification at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, will succeed Brevet Col. Bogle in the R.E. command at Singapore. Lt. Col. Chippendale served in the Afghan war of 1879-1880, and took part in the march to Candahar, with the force under Major-General Phayre (mentioned in despatches, medal).

At the Magistrate's day, before Mr H. E. Wodehouse, Mr J. Hastings, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Opium Farmer, and applied for the permission of the Magistrate to inspect the depositions in the case in which an excise officer was, on Saturday, sentenced to six months' imprisonment for stealing \$50 from a house at No. 78 Praya West. The Magistrate refused the application for leave to inspect the depositions. Mr Hastings said he made a very reasonable application with a view to appealing to the Supreme Court or applying for a rehearing of the case, as circumstances appeared to be proper. His Worship granted a certificate for leave to appeal.

AMY Gourlay, who was in Hongkong recently with Tommy Hudson's Surprise Party, has obtained decree of divorce against her husband, a stockbroker's clerk named Burroughes. From the evidence it appeared that Miss Gourlay married Burroughes after three weeks' acquaintance. They lived together in difficulties for three years in Sydney, and then he deserted her. Mr Justice Simpson said he had some hesitation in granting a decree, and that hesitation arose from his desire not to let people imagine that because they marry in haste they could go there and get a divorce as a matter of course when one or the other got tired of married life and left. He had doubts, too, as to whether respondent left petitioner against her will, and whether respondent was, as a matter of fact, domiciled in the colony. On the whole, however, he found the issue of desertion proved, and pronounced a decree nisi, returnable in one month.

Special Low Prices to end of month only for Stained, Alkali, Soda, and Soda Ash, at the Straits Trading Co., 10, Raffles Place, Singapore.

We learn from Japan exchanges that Capt. Waddilove did not commit suicide by shooting himself, but that he was found dead in bed in the Club Hotel, Yokohama, with his throat cut and both wrists hacked. Deceased had been eighteen years in the employ of the Indo-China S.S. Company.

YAKESIE AT THE DOCKS.—At Kowloon—H.M.G.S. Moore, H.M.S. Linnet, Freije, Slam-Sangkiang, Vega.

Aberdeen.—(None).

Comopolitan.—West York, Gerard To-ber.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS. [SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL']

LONDON, December 17.

OBITUARY. The death of Alphonse Daudet is announced.

The actor Terrier was stabbed to death in entering the 'Adelphi,' by a former super named Archer.

CRICKET. England won the test match at Sydney by nine wickets.

GERMANY.—THE DEPARTURE OF PRINCE HENRY. The Emperor William, at a banquet, toasting Prince Henry, said that his mission was effected for the protection of his countrymen, but if any one attempted to affront or prejudice us, strike with your mailed fist. Prince Henry, returning thanks in an extraordinary speech, declared that his only desire was to preach abroad the gospel of Your Sacred Majesty.

GERMANY AND CHINA. The liner Danubius, with Marines, has sailed for China.

PIRATICAL OUTRAGES NEAR HONGKONG. BIG HAIRS BY THE PIRATES.

Within the past few days, two daring piratical outrages have been committed in the neighbourhood of Hongkong, the deliberation with which the outrages have been committed pointing to the conclusion that a well-organised band of Chinese desperadoes are infesting the environs of the Harbour, prepared to perpetrate any manner of desperate crime unless severely repressive measures are adopted by the authorities. If the reputation of safety is to be retained for our harbour something must be done immediately. There is no need to get into a state of panic; but it is obvious that unless the Colonial authorities co-operate with the Chinese authorities plunder will be followed by murder and outrage, and the junk trade of the port will be seriously compromised.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., the Chi Wo Company hired the launch F. Wan to some men for the purpose of towing a coal-laden junk from Lanchuk to Aberdeen. There was a pilot, master and four of a crew on board the launch in addition to the hired crew. From Lanchuk, the launch steered in the direction of Aberdeen; but when off Green Island, revolvers were drawn upon the crew, who were ordered below. Here they were imprisoned until Saturday, when one of the men ventured on deck, found the launch was in a bay near Castle Peak in the Canton River, and that their assailants had disappeared. The junk's cargo, which is supposed to have consisted of arms or opium, or some other valuable contraband, had been removed in the interval. During their two days' imprisonment, the crew of the launch received no food. One of the crew made his way to Hongkong, and reported the affair; another launch was sent out on Saturday night, and the F. Wan was picked up on Sunday morning and towed into the Harbour. Before leaving, the pirates or smugglers removed all the coal and rendered the engines of the F. Wan unworkable. It is somewhat of a mystery how the launch with its junk in tow managed to escape the notice of the Customs cruisers at the mouth of the river.

The other case reported by the Chinese Mail this morning is even more serious. On Friday last, the 17th inst., two junks named On Yop Shun and Yi Luen Hing left Hongkong Harbour in tow of a steam launch. The junks were loaded with valuable cargo, and carried a large number of passengers for Samchun. When off Chek-wan in the Canton River, near the Bocca Tigris forts, the launch master found he could not proceed further on account of the shallow state of the river, so he anchored for the night. About two o'clock on Saturday morning, a gang of robbers boarded the junks, frightened the passengers and crews by the display of revolvers and formidable looking swords, and plundered all the cargo, baggage and every movable article on board. The passengers were relieved of jewellery, money and valuable clothing, one man losing the scrip for 90 shares in the Kaiping coal mines. No resistance was offered; and in consequence of the darkness the people on board the junks have no idea where the robbers came from. It is estimated that the total value of the stolen property was \$10,000.

These two cases ought to convince the Chinese authorities of the necessity for policing the estuary of the Canton River, and we hope the Hongkong Government will not lose the opportunity of pressing the matter on the notice of Sir Claude Maxwell with a view to the alleviation of the difficulties and dangers under which the junk trade must now be conducted.

Very little plague has made its appearance in Shanghai. A report says that within about five hours commencing three p.m. of the 20th inst., 89 human cases of the disease in Shanghai had been reported to the authorities, and that the epidemic was not yet at its height.

Special Low Prices to end of month only for Stained, Alkali, Soda, and Soda Ash, at the Straits Trading Co., 10, Raffles Place, Singapore.

PIRATICAL ATTACK ON HAIPHONG.

TWO EUROPEANS AND THIRTY PIRATES KILLED.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. We are informed that on the night of Wednesday, the 15th inst., a gang of about 800 pirates attacked the suburbs of Haiphong, inhabited by the Europeans, setting fire to houses in the four quarters of the city simultaneously.

The authorities, finding themselves unable to cope with the pirates, appealed to the warships in Haiphong for assistance, and a party of French marines was at once landed, and fired upon the desperadoes, of whom over thirty were killed. So far as has been ascertained, only two Europeans lost their lives, M. Gauthier, who is, we presume, the accountant of the Société des Charbonnages at Haiphong; and another Frenchman, whose name has not yet reached Hongkong. M. Gauthier's body was terribly mutilated, practically cut to pieces by the native coupe-coupe or sword. Considerable damage was caused to property by the conflagration.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Legislative Council met this afternoon. H. E. Sir Wm. Robinson, G.C.M.G., presided. There were present—H. E. Major General Bland, C.B.; Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary; Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works; Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police; Hon. T. Sorombom Smith, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. R. Murray Ramsey, Harbour Master; Hon. C. P. Clatour, M.C., Ho Kai, T. H. Wickham, E. R. Belline and Hon. Wai Yik; and Mr. G. T. Backle, Clerk of Council. Absent—Hon. W. M. Goodman, Attorney General; Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving.

REPORT. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table report of the Finance Committee (No. 12), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

CURIOUS CASE OF THE LIGHT DUES. Hon. Commander R. M. Ramsey, Harbour Master, said—I rise, Sir, to move the resolution which stands in my name. Section 33 of The Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1891, provides that the rate of light dues shall be fixed by order of the Governor, pursuant to a resolution of this Council, and the resolution which I am about to propose will be the first step for fixing the rate of light dues.

The subject of light dues is one which has received a considerable amount of attention and has been written and spoken on the subject, but not in all cases have those who have written or spoken had a very intimate knowledge of the subject. As an instance of this, I would point to a letter which was laid on this table, written by my friend the Secretary for the P. and O. Company to the Secretary of State, in which it was confidently stated that \$7,722,289 tons, which was the amount of European-constructed shipping entering this port in 1895, would at the rate of 1 cent per ton yield a revenue of \$77,000. Now, Sir, I am sure that if you take a matter of fact one cent of light dues would have produced \$43,557, instead of, as he says, upwards of \$80,000. Many other instances of want of accurate information are also to be found in the petition which is signed and presented to the Council, and signed by the members of the leading commercial firms and others. One of these was that the taxation of shipping in aid of general revenue was opposed to the practice of the leading commercial nations. Now I do not suppose the gentleman who signed that petition had any real knowledge of the matter, which is not always the case in Hongkong—would object to me saying that the United States of America might be considered as a 'leading commercial nation' and the United States law of 1896 levied 6 to 80 cents per ton on shipping entering the ports, and a similar amount was levied on the coast of the United States. To the extension of debt, (2) to the cause of national defence, and (3) to public use generally. Then another inaccuracy of the petition—the petition doubted 'if any highly civilized country has a deliberate attempt ever been made to raise revenue out of light dues. They have always been imposed for the express purpose of providing for the construction and maintenance of Light-houses, Buoys and Beacons, and for no other purpose whatsoever.' I asked just now that the United States of America was considered as a 'leading commercial nation.' Now you have no objection to England or the United Kingdom being taken as a highly 'civilized country.' In 1880, the light dues in England were raised to supply a deficit in the Mercantile Marine fund, and in 1892 four years after, sufficient surplus had been raised to pay \$100,000 of the debt of the Mercantile Marine Fund out of the light dues. There are many other instances of inaccuracy in the petition, but the most threatening of them all is one in which it is asserted that the levy of 1 cent per ton on shipping coming to the port is a 'leading commercial nation.' Now you have no objection to England or the United Kingdom being taken as a highly 'civilized country.' 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EMPEROR OF CHINA—Comdr. R. Pylet, K.N.E., S.W.—WEDNESDAY, 16th Feb./89
EMPRESS OF INDIA—Comdr. O. P. Mahan, R.N.E.—WEDNESDAY, 16th Feb./89

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SANUKI MARU, W. TOWNSEND,	MARSEILLES, LONDON and ANTWERP, Via STRAITS (Transhipping Cargo for JAVA FORMS), COLOMBO & PORT SAID.	TUESDAY, 21st December, at 4 p.m.	
YAMAGUCHI MARU, S. KAWAMURO,	KOBE and YOKOHAMA.	THURSDAY, 23rd Dec., at 4 p.m.	
SAGAMI MARU, M. J. OUNOW,	SHANGHAI, CHEMULPO, SEI- MONSEKI and KOBE.	FRIDAY, 24th D. at 4 p.m.	
TOKIO MARU, E. W. HASWELL,	SYDNEY and MELBOURNE, Via THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNVILLE and BRISBANE.	FRIDAY, 24th D. at 4 p.m.	
IDZUMI MARU,	BOMBAY, Via SINGAPORE (Transhipping Cargo)	THURSDAY, 30th	

R. NYRUME, } & SHAGA (1st Class) } Dec., at Noon.
 for JATA PORT, and COLOMBO. }
 * **ROJON MARU,** } **SEATTLE, Wash., U.S.A.,** } **THURSDAY, 30**
 A. E. Moseley, } **Via Kobe, YOKOHAMA & HONOLULU.** } **Dec., at 4 p.m.**

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Hongkong, December 18, 1897.

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Steamer.	Tons.	Captain.	Expected Sailing.	Steamer.	Tons.	Captain.	Expected Sailing.
<i>Brenmar</i>	302	E. Porter	Dec. 21	<i>Mogul</i>	454	W. H. Wright	Jan. 1
<i>Columbi</i>	354	A. G. Cowie	Jan. 1	<i>Belcan</i>	338	A. G. Cowie	Jan. 1
<i>Tacoma</i>	354	A. Dixon	Feb. 1	<i>Brenmar</i>	302	E. Porter	Feb. 1
<i>Victoria</i>	316	J. P. Patton	B.X.E. Feb. 2	<i>Mogul</i>	454	W. H. Wright	Feb. 1

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Notes and Queries.—
The Elixir of Amoy.
The Eggry growth about Amoy.
Etymologies.
Bridges in China.
Population of Socchoo.
Miscellaneous Notes.
Collocation Bibliographies.
Books Wanted, Exchange, &c.
To Contributors.

Fees for Public Vehicles.

Chari.

IN VICTORIA WITH TWO SEATERS.

Time	Rate
Half hour	0.10
One hour	0.20
Three hours	0.60
Six hours	1.00

Day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) 0.10.

If the trip is extended beyond 6 p.m. half fare extra.

ANYWHERE IN VICTORIA, WITH FOUR SEATERS.

Time	Rate
Half hour	0.20
One hour	0.40
Three hours	1.00
Six hours	1.60

Day (6 to 6)

Tenrickhaas.

(With single driver).

Time	Rate
Quarter hour	0.06
Half hour	0.10
One hour	0.20
Three hours	0.60
Six hours	1.00

Notes.—Victoria extends from Davis to Gausway Bay and up to the foot of Robinson Road. If the vehicle is discharged beyond these limits, extra fee to be allowed for extra distance. Vehicles to be driven and carried by the proper licensed person.

